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Message Text

SECRET

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44
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 NEAE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01

OMB-01 IO-13 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 SCEM-02 TRSE-00

RSR-01 /108 W
---------- 051961
P R 111308Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4328
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

S E C R E T JIDDA 2890

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SA
SUBJECT: FAISAL PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 132604

1. FOLLOWING MEETING WITH KING FAISAL AND OTHER SAUDI OFFICIALS, CORRESPONDENTS COOLEY AND HOAGLAND DEPARTED FOR BEIRUT JULY 5. ACCORDINGLY WE REQUESTED EMBASSY BEIRUT JULY 7 TO CONTACT THEM IF POSSIBLE, OBTAIN FULL TEXT OF INTERVIEW FOR TRANSMISSION TO JIDDA AND DEPT.

2. HOWEVER, HOAGLAND DID COMMENT TO EMBOFF THAT MEETING WITH KING WAS BRIEF, AND IT MAY WELL BE TEXT AS GIVEN IN WIRELESS FILE CONTAINS PRINCIPAL SUBSTANCE FAISAL'S REMARKS. OUR INTERPRETATION BELOW BASED THEREFORE ON AS MUCH OF KING'S COMMENTS AS WE NOW HAVE.

3. WHEN HOAGLAND AND COOLEY CALLED AT EMBASSY THEY TOLD US THEY KNEW OF GENEVA MEETING BETWEEN KING AND SENIOR OIL MEN LAST MAY. THUS TWO CORRESPONDENTS WERE WELL PRIMED TO PROBE FAISAL ON MATTER. KING'S NATURUAL INCLINATION IS TO BE FRANK WITH WHOMEVER HE TALKS. FAISAL MAY
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HAVE BEEN GLAD TO HAVE CHANCE TO MAKE PUBLIC HIS CURRENT

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FEELINGS, THOUGH WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE HE SOUGHT EXPECIALLY
THE OPPORTUNITY EXPRESS HIS VIEWS.

4. THIS IS FIRST TIME KING HAS GIVEN OUT PUBLICLY SAME
TYPE OF LINE HE TOOK RECENTLY IN MEETINGS IN RIYADH WITH
SENIOR ARAMCO REPS AND LATER IN GENEVA WITH PARENT
COMPANY VICE PRESIDENTS. IN GENERAL KING'S COMMENTS GIVE
FURTHER STRESS AND MOMENTUM TO LINE HE HAS BEEN TAKING ING
RECENT WEEK S REGARDING US POLICY IN MIDDLE EAST,WITH
EMPHASIS PARTICULARLY ON DIFFICULTIES CREATED BY OUR
SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL. HE HAS NOT, HOWEVER, STATED HIS
PRESENT VIEWS DIRECTLY TO ANY USG REPRESENTATIVE.
(WE NOTICE HOAGLAND'S VERSION OF WHAT FAISAL SAID MAKES
NO LINKAGE BETWEEN AVAILABILITY OF SAUDI OIL AND US
POLICY, THOUGH HOAGLAND GIVES IT THIS INTERPRETATION,
WHEREAS COOLEY CLAIMS FAISAL WARNED THAT COOPERATION
WITH US IN PETROLEUM FIELD WOULD BE DIFFICULT WITHOUT
"MORE BALANCED POLICY.")

5. WITH FAISALS DISSATISFACTION REGARDING US POLICY
NOW MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD, HIS ARABISM BECOMES
PRESUMABLY SOMEWHAT MORE CONVINCING TO RADICALS SUCH AS
QADHAFI OR ASSAD. AT SAME TIME HIS REMARKS MIGHT BE
READ AS KIND OF COMMITMENT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT SAUDI
TIES WITH US UNLESS THERE IS "MORE EVEN-HANDED" US
POLICY IN MIDDLE EAST, A SORT OF PROMISE WO WHICH
CONCEIVABLY OTHER ARAB LEADERS MIGHT SEEK TO HOLD HIM.

6 WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE HERE OF ANY SAUDI DECISIONS OR
EVEN CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR MOVING IN FASHION THAT MIGHT
ALTER CURRENT CHARACTER US-SAUDI RELATIONS. TAKING
STEPS TO SUCH AN END WOULD INVOLVE DIFFICULT DETERMINA-
TIONS FOR SAUDIS WHERE PROBABLE DAMAGE AND RISKS OF
ACTION WOULD HAVE TO BE ASSAYED AGAINST ANY SUPPOSED
POLITICAL ADVANTAGE TO BE GAINED. AT SAME KING'S
STATE OF MIND IS NOT HELPFUL TO OUR
INTERESTS AND WILL MAKE HIM SUSCEPTIBLE TO SUGGESTIONS
OR DEVELOPING SITUATIONS WHERE HE COULD BE TEMPTED TO
BACK HIS WORDS WITH ACTION.
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Draft Date: 11 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS THACHER
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730741/aaaabdtg.tel
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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